



STATE SENATOR

KEN SIKKEMA

CAPITOL FAX

Friday, January 17, 2003

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TWO GRANHOLM APPOINTEES

The Michigan State Senate exercised the advice and consent process for the first time in nearly a decade this week, favorably recommending the gubernatorial appointments of Mayor David C. Hollister to the Department of Consumer and Industry Services and Jay Rising to state Treasurer. Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, said the hearings set the tone of future advice and consent hearings, by establishing a bipartisan setting where Republican and Democrat senators are able to question appointees on a variety of policy issues. The committee acted in a very timely manner to issue recommendations on both appointments, taking less than two hours to unanimously approve each agency director. The full Senate is scheduled to take up the committee's recommendation when it convenes on January 21. The Michigan Constitution gives the Senate advice and consent authority on certain gubernatorial appointments.

GOVERNOR GRANHOLM CALLS FOR SCHOOL AID CUTS

Following the revenue estimating conference held on January 14, Governor Granholm notified school districts of pending state funding reduction to fix revenue shortfalls in the school aid fund. Under Granholm's proposed cuts, local school districts could see a reduction of \$80 to \$100 per student from the \$6,700 per-pupil foundation grant. Michigan law authorizes the Governor to cut school aid payments if the Legislature does not adopt an alternative measure within 30 days. Gov. Granholm is also "alerting" school district that the 2004 K-12 funding budget will be reduced by approximately \$365 million. The school aid reduction is expected to come through an executive order cut soon.

SENATE TASK FORCE TO STUDY BOTTLE RETURN LAW

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema announced on January 16 the formation of a task force to review Michigan's 26-year-old bottle deposit law. The task force will make recommendations to lawmakers on any proposed change to the measure. Sikkema has appointed Senator Cameron Brown, R-Fawn River Township, to chair the task force and hold hearings around the state, beginning in February. The task force is scheduled to release findings and recommendations through a report due in September. The goal of the task force is to reevaluate the 1976 voter-initiated law to consider improvements, expansions or new recycling programs. Sikkema believes the task force will guide Michigan's forward to improve the state's recycling record, currently considered to be one of the worst in the nation.

The *Capitol Fax* by Senator Ken Sikkema is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of legislative activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, do not wish to receive this fax, or would like to receive this via e-mail, please contact Senator Sikkema's office.

Phone: (800) 774-1174. Fax: (517) 373-5236. E-mail: senksikkema@senate.state.mi.us

State Capitol, Lansing, Michigan 48913